

other things that we should consider. We had full debate on it and I think that, you know, I do not agree with the decision but I'm not going to make an effort to bring the bill back. I don't think we should start kicking this proposal around. We spent a lot of time on it last year. We found it wasn't workable. I would think that we should not adopt these amendments and let 184 stay as the meat packer's bond bill as it always should be. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I think when it comes to trash I've had more experience in this area than any of you because I have been the introducer of virtually every single bill at one time or another that has had to do with litter and I don't usually pride myself on introducing trash bills. I think I have taken too much time over the last few weeks in the discussion of LB 818. To recount again the various bills I introduced that dealt with litter in the last five years but there have been many. Some of them did not get out of the Committee and some did. Some came to this floor and died. Not one of them has ever been passed into law. LB 220 of last session was discussed at great length and with some amount of pain to those of us who had some confidence in it. When the bill did not have sufficient strength to pass I accepted that as the will of this body. I went so far as to have drafted the bottle bill for this session of the Legislature. When Senator Bereuter, Dworak, Fowler, Mills, DeCamp indicated an interest also I joined with those five Senators in the introduction of that bill. The bill was sent to the Ag and Environment Committee which is where it belonged. This is where it should have gone for many years previously and I want to remind you that the Ag and Environment Committee sent that bill to this floor and sent it to this floor virtually in a hurry to give this body every chance to act upon that bill. I defended that bill on the floor. I pointed out time after time after time what had happened to LB 220. I pointed out again and again that I felt something had to be done and should be done and I want to say now, that to me it is unfortunate that we spend the amount of time we do on this kind of an issue when we have people out of jobs, we have people who are hungry, we have people whose businesses are losing money, whose farms are losing money and we stand here and debate an issue which I think should be determined in a matter of minutes. I do not think your sun rises or sets on the bottle bill, the can bill, the trash bill or any other kind of a litter bill. Senator DeCamp's amendment to this bill deserves debate. If the amendment is adopted and advanced it does not in any way preclude the backers of the petition drive from their efforts. In fact it may very well encourage them to do what they are engaged in today. The passage of this bill could well guarantee the success of the petition drive. What this does here is it gives this Legislature the opportunity to do something about litter. I believe and many other people believe that we have a litter problem. I was willing and I fought hard for LB 818 because I said at that time it represents one approach and half a loaf is better than none, but I want to remind you that LB 818 died by lack of one vote and I want to point out that one vote could have saved LB 818 and kept it alive but that one vote wasn't forthcoming. I think if I had been around and knowledgeable about what was going to happen I might have been able to hustle that one vote somewhere but I had no idea what was going to happen but that bill died and that bill is dead. Now if someone wants to try to amend this bill with LB 818, I'll help you, but I'll be here when the vote is taken and I'll be here